

# 19 Career Truths I Wish I Knew Before My First Job



# **1. Career Paths Are Completely Made Up.**

Most people think there's some magical "right way" to do things. There isn't.

**No one really knows where they'll end up.** And anyone who says different is spouting rubbish.

Remember, its easy to connect the dots in hindsight.

**2.**

## **Most People Spend Years Living Someone Else's Dream.**

Maybe it's your parents' vision of success. Maybe it's what society told you "success" looks like.

**Don't resent them for it. The real tragedy isn't following someone else's path. It's never questioning if it's the path you want.**

**3.**

## **Don't Follow Your Passion, Get Good At Something.**

It's BS to think you just "find" things you're passionate about.

**Get good at something first – then it often becomes fun.**

Skills create opportunities, and opportunities create passion.

**4.**

## **Trust Isn't About Sharing Your Entire Personal Life.**

Building trust at work is not like making friends. You don't need to share your deepest darkest secrets.

**Professional trust is built  
through boring consistency.**

It's showing up when you say you will, delivering what you promise, and keeping drama out of the workplace.

**5.**

## **At The Start, You're Paid For Your Potential. But It Expires Fast.**

After 5 years, only your track record matters.

**The faster you find ways to drive results, the better your career will be.**

Fortunately, social media has meant that showing your results to millions of people has never been easier.

## **6. Treat Every Job Like An Experiment.**

Most treat them like a prison sentence.

They stay in safe jobs they hate because "that's what you're supposed to do."

**Just like your first love (probably) isn't your last, your first job (probably) won't be your best.**

The cost of experimenting now is months. Later, it's years.

## **7. Taking A "Stepping Stone" Job Rarely Works**

"Stepping stone" is often code for "I'm scared to try what I really want."

**Every day in a stepping stone job just increases the chances you don't ever make the leap.**

The best preparation for your dream job is starting it.

## **8. You Will Feel Like An Imposter (Sometimes).**

Every time you level up in your career, you are an "imposter."

It's not a bad thing. It means you're growing.

The answer isn't power poses in the mirror. It's to build confidence by doing hard things over and over.

**9.**

## **If You Don't Communicate, People Assume The Worst.**

We often don't communicate when we don't have "the answer".

The problem is people fill the gaps with their worst fears.

**A simple "I'm working on it" beats radio silence every time.**

The best communicators know: bad news doesn't age well.

# **10. Everything Takes Longer Than You Think.**

You see those LinkedIn posts about becoming a VP by 25?

That's like seeing someone win the lottery and thinking it's normal.

Most great careers are built **being impatient day to day but preparing for 10 years.**

# **11. Being Exceptional, Requires Doing Exceptional Things.**

It's easy to say you want to be the best.

We see the highlight reels everywhere of people who have made it.

**It's harder when you have to pay the price** - saying no to nights out or letting go of friendships.

## **12. You Need A Sponsor, Not Just A Mentor.**

Being good at your job isn't enough to get promoted. Lots of people are good at their jobs

You need someone with real influence fighting for you behind closed doors.

Your boss might be great, but if they're not in those rooms where decisions get made? That's not enough.

# 13. Most Career "Emergencies" Aren't.

One of the hardest parts when you're new is knowing what actually matters.

Find the person who's been there a while and seems calm.  
**Ask them what they worry about.**

Trust me: 99% of things that feel urgent at 7pm look very different after a night of sleep.

# **14. Always Network Before You Need It.**

Networking is simple. **Just help people. Share what you know. Be interested in what others do.**

People help those they know, not those who suddenly appear asking for favors.

Build bridges before you need to cross them.

Your network is like a garden - if you don't tend to it, it dies.

# **15. Your Reputation Starts On Day 1.**

People are watching how you handle the stuff you think doesn't matter.

**The boring meetings, the routine emails, the small promises. People remember all of it.**

Next time you start telling yourself “no one will notice”, here’s a reminder: yes they will.

# **16. Good Feedback Hurts Because Its True.**

When feedback stings, pay attention.

**The stuff that makes you defensive is probably what you need to hear most.**

The trick isn't avoiding the sting - it's learning to appreciate it.

**17.**

## **If You Hate The Work, You'll Never Master It.**

There's a difference between "this is hard" and "this makes me miserable."

**If you genuinely hate the work, no amount of "pushing through" will make you great at it.**

But if it's just difficult though... that's where the growth happens.

# **18. Double Down On Your Strengths.**

Stop trying to be well-rounded.  
That's for high school.

**You'll go further by being  
amazing at a few things than  
being okay at everything.**

Find what you're naturally good  
at and become exceptional at it.

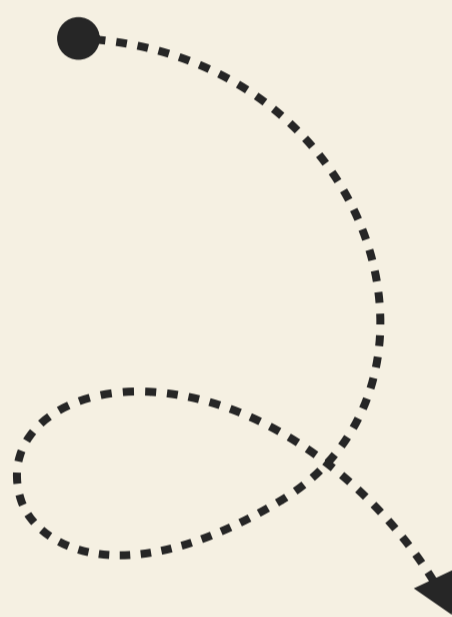
## **19. Don't Ignore Your Gut Instinct.**

You know that feeling when something feels off at work?

It usually is. **Your brain picks up patterns before you can explain them.**

The more experience you get, the more you should trust that feeling.

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